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18 May 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

4-1486

SUBJECT

Guatemalan Plans for Merchant Shipping.

- l. Guatemalan plans for establishing new facilities for merchant shipping as revealed in our memorandum on same subject dated 6 May 1953, may provide us with an opportunity to embarrass and disrupt the present Guatemalan Government.
- 2. Although preliminary studies on this subject reveal clearly that any plan faces many difficulties and must be very carefully worked out, the following possibilities are being analyzed:
 - a. It may be possible to negate the efforts of the Guatemalan Government to successfully operate their own ocean transportation facilities.
 - b. It may be possible further to cause the Guatemalan Government considerable economic loss, accompanied by political and financial embarrassment.
- 3. It appears possible that the Guatemalan Government can be maneuvered into taking on certain shipping commitments, after which covert pressures in the shipping and coffee fields could result in sufficient disruption to the country's economy to throw grave doubt on the ability of the present Government to handle its own economic affairs. Such doubt would be fostered by a very active PW campaign.
- 4. Detailed investigation of the following fields is necessary and has been initiated in order to analyze all factors involved:
 - a. Transportation (land and sea).
 - b. Guatemalan national economy.
 - c. Coffee marketing.
 - d. Labor elements (to include U.S. maritime and dock workers).
 - e. PW potentials.

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cc: DCWH/PP
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